

Michelle G. Fry, J.D., Ph.D.

State Director

Janet Brock Priest

Associate State Director

Operations

Lori Manos

Associate State Director

Policy

Constance Holloway

General Counsel

Harley T. Davis, Ph.D.

Chief Administrative Officer

Nancy Rumbaugh

Interim Chief Financial Officer

Greg Meetze

Chief Information Officer



3440 Harden Street Extension
Columbia, South Carolina 29203

803/898-9600

Toll Free: 888/DSN-INFO

Home Page: www.ddsn.sc.gov

COMMISSION

Stephanie M. Rawlinson

Chairman

Barry D. Malphrus

Vice Chairman

Robin B. Blackwood

Secretary

Gary Kocher, M.D.

Eddie L. Miller

David L. Thomas

Michelle Woodhead

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors, Day Program
Executive Directors, Residential Services
Day Program Directors
Residential Directors

FROM: Janet Brock Priest, Associate State Director – Operations

DATE: July 25, 2022

SUBJECT: LIFE-VAC

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "JB Priest".

I am writing to share information about a device that may be of interest to you. As you may know, choking (airway obstruction) is one of the leading causes of death for people with disabilities. DDSN's data shows that, year after year, choking is one of the most frequently reported critical incidents. Although all staff must be specifically trained in the techniques (back thrusts and Heimlich) to be used in response to incidents of choking, those techniques may not always be successful.

LIFE-VAC is a non-powered, non-invasive airway clearance device developed for resuscitating a victim with airway obstruction when the Heimlich and back thrusts have been performed without success. Training and instruction in the use of the device are available online. The cost for the device is approximately \$70.00, and while this is a single use device, according to the company's website, if used, it will be replaced at no cost. More information can be found at:

[LifeVac | Save a Life in a Choking Emergency | Choking Rescue Device](#)

Again, I am writing only to share information about this device; this is not an endorsement. If you are interested, I encourage you to do your own research, consider the needs of those who are supported by your agency, and act accordingly.

Thanks